

Southeast News

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UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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You Are Helping In El Salvador

Amid the civil strife that ravages El Salvador, you are helping the Ecumenical Committee for Humanitarian Assistance in its program of relief for helpless and homeless people.

Some of the funds from last year's One Great Hour of Sharing all-church offering have enabled Church World Service, the service arm of the National Council of Churches, to give more than \$150,000 in response to a request for assistance for the people of El Salvador.

The Ecumenical Committee, which includes both Protestants and Roman Catholics, provides food and medical care to victims of the raging conflict. Twenty-five thousand pounds of clothing have also been sent, and small grants have gone to ecumenical agencies caring for Salvadoran refugees in Honduras and Nicaragua.

For further information on relief work, write:

Washington Office on Latin America
110 Maryland Avenue, NE
Washington, DC 20002

National UCC Clergy Gathering Announced

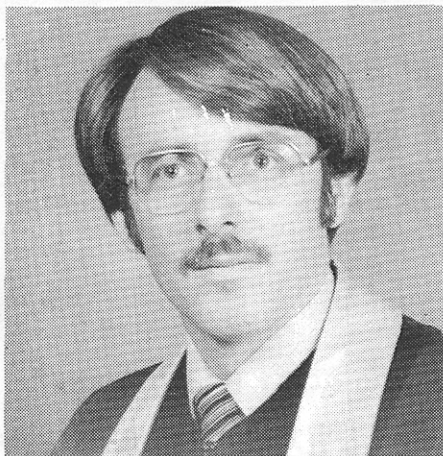
"On Being Faithful" is the theme of the Second National Gathering of UCC Clergy, to be held June 24-26, 1981 at the University of Rochester, Rochester, N.Y.

Bringing together clergy from across the United Church of Christ, the meeting will explore what it means to be faithful in ministry in today's world and to share in the reaffirmation of our faith.

To be highlighted with three sermons by Dr. Ernest Campbell, former senior minister of Riverside Church, N.Y., N.Y., the program will also include 20-25 information workshops as well as times for worship and fellowship.

The registration fee is \$15, plus an additional \$5 for spouses. Dormitory rooms and meals are available at the

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REV. W. DAVID CHANDLER

Chandler Installed As Pastor of Lanett Church

The Rev. W. David Chandler was installed on March 29, 1981 by the East Alabama Association as pastor of Lanett Congregational Christian Church, UCC, Lanett, AL.

Participating in the service of installation were Mr. Arthur Dailey, Moderator and Ms. Jean Dailey, Chairwoman of the Pulpit Committee of Lanett Congregational Christian Church, UCC. Representing the East Alabama Association were Ms. Louise Cox, Moderator and Rev. Joe French, Chairman of the Committee on Church and Ministry. Present for the Southeast Conference was Associate Conference Minister Warren Blankenhorn. Rev. Warner Noles, Vice-Moderator of the Association administered the vows.

No stranger to the Southeast Conference, Rev. Chandler formerly served Hillside Christian Church, LaGrange, GA from 1973 to 1977. A native of Pensacola, Florida, Rev. Chandler graduated from the University of West Florida in 1970 and received his M. Div. degree from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in 1973.

Following his tenure at Hillside Church, Rev. Chandler accepted the pastorate of Union Congregational Church, Hallandale, FL in 1977. While serving the Hallandale

Cont'd. -Page 2

SEC Top OCWM Percentage Gainer

Of the 39 conferences in the United Church of Christ, the Southeast Conference was the number one percentage gainer in OCWM basic support in 1980. The Conference gained first place with a 19 percent increase in funds forwarded on for support of the activities of the national church. Following Southeast were Northern California, Southwest and North Dakota with increases of 18 percent, 16 percent, and 15 percent respectively.

For the United Church as a whole, support of Our Christian World Mission increased by 6.03 percent to a total of \$22,115,687. Conferences retained 52 percent of the total, with the remaining 48 percent — or \$10,625,660 — going to the national treasury for support of the nine national instrumentalities and the Executive Council.

For the first time, no conference was lower in total giving than it had been the year before.

Celebrate College Heritage Day

The last Sunday of this month, April 26, has been designated as UCC College Heritage Day. This observance, endorsed by the UCC Council for Higher Education, celebrates our denomination's mission in higher education.

For almost 350 years, from the founding of Harvard in 1636 to the founding of Hawaii Loa College only eight years ago, the United Church of Christ has been deeply involved in mission and ministry in and through church-related education institutions.

Today, thirty colleges, two academies and fifteen theological seminaries are related to our United Church of Christ — all forty-seven institutions representing a significant contribution to leadership in our nation's intellectual, cultural, and religious life.

Urge your church to celebrate UCC College Heritage Day on Sunday, April 26.

CONFERENCE CORNER

Rev. Stephen Gray

There are usually two ways to look at everything. This is captured by the old observation that "I can complain because rose bushes have thorns or I can rejoice because thorn bushes have roses."

Much the same applies when we think about the Southeast Conference. On the one hand the Southeast Conference is a rose bush with more than its share of thorns. You are familiar with them: a small number of churches, a majority of which are under 100 members — a lower budget than most all other conferences — limited staff personnel — less programming than we would like to have.

But there is another side of the picture. For in spite of the thorns — which are very real — there is the rose. And the rose of the Southeast Conference is its people and their faith. Coming from diverse religious heritages with widely differing theological and ethical perspectives, the people of the Southeast Conference continue to come together — in meetings, on commissions, in worship — seeking the unity offered in Christ Jesus.

In spite of the thorns, that is a rose which we ought not to take for granted and about which we ought to rejoice!

Memoirs Committee Asks Churches To Write

A regular part of each Southeast Conference annual meeting is the report of the Memoirs Committee — a report remembering those faithful members of conference churches that have died during the past year.

In preparation for the 1981 Annual Meeting, this year's Memoirs Committee would like to request that churches within the conference submit names as soon as possible to the committee chairman: Rev. Arnold Slater, Route 1, Box 246A, Soddy, TN 37379.

CE:SA — Everything You Wanted To Know...

Everything you ever wanted to know about CE:SA — Christian Education Shared Approaches curriculum material — is contained in a series of questions and answers developed to explain the CE:SA approach to christian education.

If you would like a set of the questions and answers, please request them from the Southeast Conference, P.O. Box 29883, Atlanta, GA 30359.



REV. LUTHER KRAMER

Ministers' Convocation Slated May 4-6

The 1981 Ministers' and Spouses Convocation, scheduled for Monday-Wednesday, May 4-6, will be held in a new location this year: St. Bernard Abbey in Cullman, AL.

The main speaker for the Convocation will be Rev. Luther Kramer, Director of the Center for Creative Living and Spiritual Growth, Huntsville, AL. The topic Rev. Kramer will discuss is: Clergy Marriages; Turning Stress and Anger into Wows.

A graduate of Florida State University and Columbia Theological Seminary, Rev. Kramer is currently a Doctoral student in Pastoral Counseling and Theology at Vanderbilt University. A Presbyterian minister, Rev. Kramer was the recipient of the 1979 Huntsville Jaycees' Outstanding Religious Leader of the Year Award.

Cost for room and board will be \$25 per person. This covers six meals beginning Monday evening and continuing through Wednesday lunch. Participants are to bring their own bed linens, towels and soap.

Registration information has been mailed to all ministers. Registration is due in the Conference Office no later than April 29.

National UCC - Cont'd.

University for a modest fee.

Registration forms can be secured from Conference Offices or from the Rev. J. Robert Sandman, Registrar, 302 South Grant St., Hinsdale, IL 60521. Registration forms must be returned to the above address by May 15, 1981.

Services Held For Conference Treasurer, J. R. Wilson Jr.

A Service of Commemoration and Praise was held for Mr. J. R. Wilson Jr. on Thursday, March 19, 1981 at First Congregational Church, UCC, Atlanta, GA.

Treasurer of the Southeast Conference since 1975, "Bob" Wilson was also a faithful member of First Congregational Church in Atlanta where he served as a Trustee.

A native of Atlanta, he graduated from Johnson C. Smith University, after which he worked for more than 40 years in the real estate business, serving as President of Wilson Realty Company, a landmark on Martin Luther King Jr. Drive in Atlanta.

In addition to his wife, Mrs. Irene Webster Wilson, survivors include a son, three daughters and three grandchildren.

Women's Task Force Makes Plans

The Southeast Conference Task Force on Women in Church and Society met at the Conference Office Feb. 13-14. Present were June Bell, Convenor, Louise Cox, Carol Jean Delcher, Betty Greene, Franklin Thomas, Phemie Young, and ex-officio members, Emmett O. Floyd, Joyce B. Myers and Virginia McCamey.

Plans for the future included discussion of the Second Southern Regional Meeting of the United Church of Christ Women. Carol Jean Delcher, Southeast Conference representative, reported on the planning meeting held last fall with Rev. Joyce B. Myers, Office for Church Life and Leadership Associate of the Southern Region, and the representatives of Florida, South Central and Southern Conferences.

The Second Southern Regional Meeting will be held October 16-18, 1981 at DuBose Conference Center, Monteagle, TN, with the theme "Women of Faith: Varied Gifts - One Spirit." Brochures are being sent from the Conference Office to local churches.

Chandler - Cont'd.

church, he also served as a member of the Board of Directors and the Haitian Task Force of the Florida Conference.

Rev. Chandler assumed the position at Lanett on November 10, 1980.

Rev. Chandler and his wife, Brenda, have two sons: Kenneth, 8 and Charles, 6.

What's With Those Geese?

Have you ever wondered why the Canadian geese fly only in the "V" formation? For years specialists in aerodynamics wondered the same thing.

Two engineers calibrated in a wind tunnel what happens in such a "V" formation. Each goose, in flapping his wings, creates an upward lift for the goose that follows. When all the geese do their part in the formation, the whole flock has a 71 percent greater flying range than if each bird flew alone. Each, then, depends upon the other to get to its destination.

Something else — when a goose begins to lag behind, the others "honk" him back into place.

Now, friends, let's learn from God's other creations! The church needs to fly in a spiritual "V" formation, "honking" one another into steadfastness. And it must be at least 71 percent easier to live the faithful Christian life "flying with the flock" as opposed to going it alone!

Lanett, AL, UCC Newsletter

Ala-Tenn Work Camp Rescheduled

A Work Camp for youth of the Alabama-Tennessee Association, scheduled to be held at Uplands Retirement Center, Pleasant Hill, TN, March 20-22 had to be postponed due to a serious outbreak of influenza at the Retirement Center.

The Work Camp has been rescheduled for the weekend of April 24-26.

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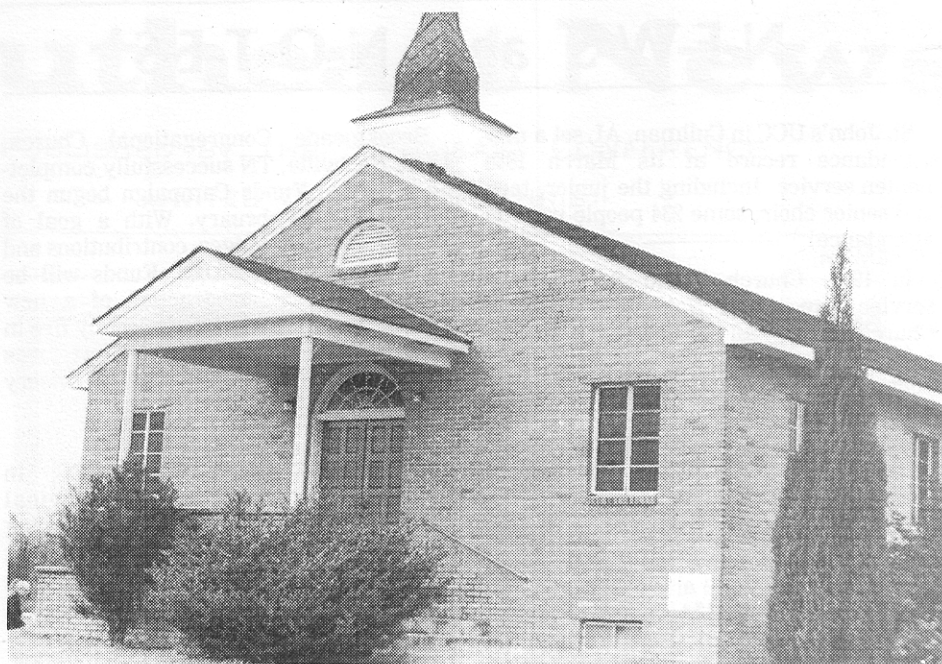
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ANTIOCH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC, ANDALUSIA, AL

AROUND THE CONFERENCE

Antioch Congregational Church, UCC

From the Atlantic Ocean to the Mississippi River, from the Gulf of Mexico to the mountains of Tennessee, the Southeast Conference covers a broad expanse of territory. Contained within her boundaries are some 120 churches — widely dispersed — widely diverse in heritage and religious expression — and yet united in the conviction that the churches of Jesus Christ "may all be one."

Representing the South Alabama-Northwest Florida Association is Antioch Congregational Church, UCC, located in Andalusia, AL.

Organized in 1873, the church was originally Congregational Methodist, an affiliation which was to continue until 1902 when the church voted to become part of the Congregational Churches.

Beginning as a log structure, the church moved into a framed structure in which it remained until 1952 when the frame structure was torn down and replaced on the site by the present brick building. In 1967 a porch was added to the front of the building.

Since that time the church has constructed a new six room brick parsonage, the mortgage of which was paid off by 1972!

The following year the church hosted a memorable Centennial Celebration, attended by former members and ministers. Over 200 persons were present.

Served by 29 pastors in the church's 108 year history, the congregation is presently composed of some 63 members. In 1980 a

youth group was added to the church — a symbol of the church's hopes for the future.

New Church Development Committee Meets

Upon the recommendation of the Outreach Commission, the Board of Directors of the Southeast Conference approved the appointment of a committee to oversee the Conference participation in New Initiatives in Church Development, a national fund-raising effort of the United Church of Christ. The committee met for the first time on Thursday, March 11 at Lanett, AL.

The committee identified three primary responsibilities: 1) To be a support system for new churches currently underway, 2) to lay plans for any possible new sites or re-development of older congregations, 3) to plan for the financial support for New Initiatives in Church Development.

The members of the committee are: Henry W. Tuttle, Chairperson, Elaine Brown, Ira W. Chace, W. David Chandler, Marilyn Clements, Louise Cox, Eddie Banovitch, Eugene Keen, Curtis Schumacher and L. Floyd Carmack, Ex-officio.

The Southeast Conference is scheduled to begin participation in New Initiatives in Church Development beginning this fall. For this year, Pentecost Sunday, June 7, has been designated as the time to receive special gifts for New Church Development. It is hoped that every member and every church will have a part in this special offering.

Emmett O. Floyd
Conference Minister

N-E-W-S and N-O-T-E-S

St. John's UCC in Cullman, AL set a new attendance record at its March 18th Lenten service. Including the junior, teen and senior choir, some 234 people were in attendance!

In 1980, Church World Service, the service arm of the National Council of Churches, set an all-time record for refugees resettled in the USA in a single year: nearly 40,000! This large number was primarily the result of the continuing influx of Indochinese refugees and the large number of Cubans who arrived in Florida during the year.

In his position as Moderator of the Southeast Conference, Rev. Henry Tuttle recently attended a conference on relations between AMA colleges and the Southeast Conference. The meeting was held at Tougaloo College in Jackson, MS April 1-3.

A total of 16 members of the United Church of Christ are presently serving in the 97th Congress.

Rev. Roger Sizemore, interim minister of Button Gwinnett UCC in Lilburn, GA, recently resigned his position to accept a regular call as minister at Kingwood Christian Church, a new church start of the Disciples of Christ in Houston, Texas. Rev. Sizemore will assume his new position on April 1.

Church World Service, the international relief and development arm of the National Council of Churches, has asked its member denominations for \$35,000 to aid earthquake victims in Indonesia. Several hundred people were killed and 16 villages destroyed in the earthquake, which struck a remote mountain region of Indonesia in late January. The Church World Service funds will be used to provide food and shelter for the 3,000 people who lost their homes.

Brookmeade Congregational Church, UCC, Nashville, TN successfully completed a Capital Funds Campaign begun the last week in February. With a goal of \$25,000 in 2-year pledges, contributions and pledges exceeded \$45,000. Funds will be used to finance construction of a new sanctuary to replace the one lost by fire in 1973. The capital funds effort was conducted by Church Finance Advisory Service, a division of UCBHM.

The Florida Conference, UCC, in conjunction with Eden Theological Seminary is conducting a continuing education program to be held June 7-19 at Lake Byrd Conference Center. Ministers interested in attending may forward inquiries to Paul W. Kohler, Assoc. Conference Minister, Florida Conference, UCC, 1150 - 49th Street, N., St. Petersburg, FL 33710.

Rev. George Fidler was the guest speaker at the 100th Anniversary of Trinity United Church, located in Concord, N.C. Rev. Fidler served Trinity Church prior to assuming his present pastorate at St. John's UCC, Cullman, AL.

Rev. Ira Chace, pastor of Pilgrimage UCC, a new church start located in Marietta, GA, was recently quoted in the "Southeast Area Newsletter" of the Massachusetts Conference, UCC. Urging churches in Massachusetts to support the New Initiatives in Church Development Campaign, Rev. Chace said, "My contention is that when a church ceases to live beyond itself it ceases to live. That is as true of a church one year old as for a church 300 years old. The UCC needs to move out on the growing edge." Rev. Chace formerly served a church in Swansea, MA.

General Synod Makes Arrangements For Youth

Special arrangements are being offered for youth who wish to attend the 13th General Synod, to be held in Rochester, N.Y. June 26-July 2.

At least two colleges are available for housing with cost for room and breakfast listed at \$12.00 per day. Special activities for youth as well as tours of the Rochester area have also been planned.

For further information, write: Randall Furushima, Secretary for Youth Education, UCBHM, 132 West 31 Street, New York, N.Y. 10001.

Women's Fellowship Organized

The Women's Fellowship of the Blackwood Congregational Christian Church, Headland, AL, sponsored a Valentine Banquet for the senior citizens of the church and community on February 11, 1981.

A total of twenty-five persons were in attendance. Mrs. Irma Maust, mother of the pastor, was the devotional speaker. Another outstanding feature of the program was a recital of a dozen poems learned in grade school and given by Mrs. Irene Chancey, aged 85.

The Women's Fellowship of Blackwood Congregational Christian Church was organized in January, 1980, with Mrs. Grace Holderby as President. One of the goals of the Fellowship is to sponsor a senior citizen program and luncheon meeting monthly.

Rev. John L. Maust is the church's pastor.

Mrs. Merwin O. Johnson
Reporter

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